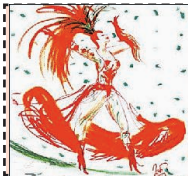


Rome priest sentenced to  
15 years ... pg 2



Enjoy Aruba's  
57th carnival

Rules Apply for All  
Campers pg 4

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Friday, March 4, 2011

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## A Happy Big 4-0 for American Airlines in Aruba!



The American Airlines Aruba team



Spectacular memorial cake



Mario Bikker gives Javier de Castro a cake



Johannes van de Rijdt, 32 years with AA, longest employed



The AAA team

The management team of the Aruba Airport Authority threw an informal birthday bash for American Airlines yesterday morning in the V.I.P. room of the Reina Beatrix International Airport in celebration of 40 years of the carrier providing airlift from the U.S. to Aruba.

AAA Managing Director of Development Mario Bikker handed a beautiful cake to AA Country Manager Javier de Castro as they were toasted for being the first U.S. commercial carrier to bring passengers to Aruba in 1971, when they took over the Trans-Caribbean routes to Aruba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Curacao.

American began with daily flights to Aruba from New York, and remained for many years the only commercial U.S. carrier providing non-charter flights to the island.

Continued on page 5



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## Rome priest sentenced to 15 years for paedophilia

ROME, Italy (AFP) – A court in Rome yesterday sentenced a former Catholic priest to 15 years in prison for child abuse, as a wave of paedophilia cases by clergymen across Europe reaches Pope Benedict XVI's doorstep.

Ruggero Conti, a former parish priest at Selva Candida on the outskirts of the Italian capital, was found guilty of abusing seven children between 1998 and 2008 when he was arrested. He had claimed complete innocence.

Prosecutors had sought 18 years in prison for Conti on charges of sex acts against minors, sexual violence and incitement to prostitution of a minor.

He was accused of carrying out some of his crimes on parish camping trips.

The case has attracted wide media attention in Italy as relatively few priestly abuse

scandals have come to light in this predominantly Catholic country, compared to the hundreds in northern Europe and the United States.

A lawyer for the victims, Fabrizio Gallo, told reporters he would also seek "a just compensation" from Vatican authorities after the court ordered Conti to pay around 200,000 euros (279,000 dollars) in damages.

"This trial showed that the accusations were true and that the lives of many people have been destroyed forever. I hope the Church will find a solution and compensate victims who have been abandoned," Gallo said.

"No-one offered them a hand to help them or say sorry," he added.

During the trial, the bishop in charge of Conti's parish, Gino Reali, admitted he had ignored initial rumours saying: "I didn't believe them."

He later launched an investigation after two victims came forward.

Conti's lawyer, Patrizio Spinelli, said his client would appeal.

## Three Dutch soldiers taken prisoner in Libya

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Three Dutch soldiers have been captured by pro-Gaddafi forces in Libya following a failed evacuation operation. A helicopter flew from the Dutch frigate HNLMS Tromp to the Libyan city of Sirte to pick up two evacuees, but when it landed the three-man crew was seized by an armed group loyal to the Libyan government.

The incident occurred towards the end of the day on Sunday but was kept quiet until now for security reasons.

The two would-be eva-

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday brushed aside Venezuela's proposal for mediation end to the violence in Libya, saying Moamer Kadhafi does not need to be told "what he needs to do."

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley instead repeated US calls for Kadhafi to step down from power in the face of the three-week-old up-

rising that he has tried to crush with his security forces.

"You don't need an international commission to tell Colonel Kadhafi what he needs to do for the good of his country and the good of his people," Crowley told reporters when asked about the Venezuelan proposal.

He underlined remarks by US President Barack Obama who said Kadhafi has lost le-

gitimacy and must leave office.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, an ally of Kadhafi, has proposed creating an international peace mission with forces from friendly nations to try to mediate the unrest gripping Libya and avoid civil war.

The Arab League said it is "studying" the Venezuelan mediation proposal.

## Lagerfeld 'furious' over Galliano outbursts

PARIS, France (AFP) - While much of the fashion world remained quiet about top Dior designer John Galliano's alleged anti-semitic attacks, Karl Lagerfeld said he was "furious" over the damage done to fashion's image.

"I'm furious, if you want to know," the German designer told the influential American WWD.com website after Galliano's three alleged outbursts, for which he has been sacked by Dior and is facing trial in Paris.

"I'm furious that it could happen, because the question is no longer even whether he really said it," Lagerfeld, who has his own label, said of his British rival's apparently drunken diatribes, one of which was filmed.

"The image has gone around the world. It's a horrible image for fashion, because they think that every designer and everything in fashion is like this."

"We are a business world where, especially today, with the Internet, one has to be more careful than ever, espe-

cially if you are a publicly known person. You cannot go in the street and be drunk, there are things you cannot do."

Galliano was sacked last week as chief designer by the French house Dior. Lagerfeld is artistic director at Dior's great Parisian rival Chanel.

Galliano's own-label show at Paris Fashion Week is to be downsized from a catwalk spectacle to a small-scale presentation to buyers and writers but the Dior show is to go ahead today as planned.

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## Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green

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### Four things to turn him back on to you! Part II

In last issue of Pointers to Ponder I introduced the topic of women not knowing how to win over a relationship-gone-cold-situation, or to win back the heart of a man who has become aloof and cold. I promised to continue with part II and to give you the 4 keys to turning the situation around.

Well, this is it here. I am convinced that in most cases, the situation can be turned around for good. However, I said in most cases; because it always depends on the disposition and maturity of both parties to make it work.

I like to point out that there are men and there are 'boys' in marital relationships today. By this I mean that boys rely solely on their feelings, on making sure they get what they want, on running rather than standing in the situation and working through it bravely; boys prefer to go to Mama and get her support and pity, rather than facing the situation head on with responsibility and resolve. Boys run to their friends and indulge in their alcohol binges and expect to drink away their situation at home, rather than facing it soberly and quickly.

Real men, on the other hand, are willing to see the problem for what it is, they are willing to at least talk about it, and they may even go along with seeing a professional counselor for help.

Well, now you need to examine your situation and determine whether you have a boy or man to deal with in your dilemma. Let me caution you here, however; in your situation, your evaluation or assessment of the kind of man you have may not be accurate during this particular time of frus-



tration and bewilderment that you're in....so back away from making this kind of assessment now, just keep the information at the back of your head.

Come with me now for the first of four keys to revitalizing your man's heart toward you:

**Key number One** - a real man wants a woman who is playful! This is one of the MUSTS to win a man's heart. By the way, these 4 things are also the things that men don't talk about but that drive men wild when they recognize them and experience them in you. Once you understand this and how this works, you would learn what men really need to feel in love and happy inside of a relationship. The good news for you is that your situation with men can change, once you discover these facts about men and how they think and feel about relationships.

Now, let me explain what I mean by being playful. Remember, we are dealing here with principles that will work on real men, men who are mature and grounded on a physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual level. They might not have everything they want in their life... but they are on the right path and are open to

growing on a deeply personal level. The opposite of a Real Man is a Boy, as stated earlier. Again, boys become uncomfortable when they get too close to their own emotions, or to a woman who sees through them and wants to work through the issues for better or worse.

There's something that drives men wild and invites them into a deeper level of "connection" and bonding with a woman faster than plain old talk about feelings and experiences... and that something is what we call play! You probably already know that men love to be active and to play. We have learned that men were raised to express themselves and to connect with those around them through action, through doing! Unfortunately, many, if not most women seem not to know this or have forgotten this and instead of action, they want to talk, talk, talk their way into a man's heart. But, sadly enough, all that talk does not get you any closer to a man, instead it only pushes him farther away and you keep getting less and less response from him on an emotional level. I believe in talking, because it is good to get the facts out, to share the things you value and want or don't want for the relationship. But, you see, men don't "feel" because of what you say. Men want the experience...he wants to do things with you that don't require all that talking. So, stop talking and get playful...and bingo...he is with you 100%! I have to stop here for now...come back next time for the rest.

Write to me with your reactions: [themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com](mailto:themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com).

## American Airlines and Aruba celebrate 40 years

ORANJESTAD -- It was forty years yesterday that American Airlines began her relationship with Aruba providing Aruba airline services.

This was a relationship that grew from year to year demonstrating confidence in our market, but particularly a confidence in Aruba, while Aruba also showed confidence in this American airline.

For these many years American Airlines has been a strategic partner of Aruba. In good times and bad times the airline demonstrated that they care about Aruba as a destination for their clients.

Over the past 40 years the airline market has changed drastically, but to date American Airlines continues to be the airline bringing the largest percentage of visitors to our island. January data indicates that for the month of January alone they were responsible for bringing 11,427 visitors to Aruba from our principal market, namely, the USA. This represents the largest percentage of visitors to Aruba, a whopping 15,24%!

The government Aruba and the Minister of Tourism and Labor, Otmar Oduber congratulated American Airlines on their 40 years of flying to Aruba. And, the people of Aruba salute American Airlines for this milestone. The minister remarked that... "this airline is an important partner in the development of our tourism industry. Thanks to companies like American Airlines, and the efforts of our various government administrations since Status Aparte, we were able to convert Aruba into a tourism paradise."

Who would have thought 40 years ago that we would have succeeded in converting Aruba from being an oil refining destination to a tourism destination today in 2011? It was partners like American



Airlines who contributed in helping us through an economic recession our island experienced at the closure of the refinery.

Oduber went on to express words of praise for Peter Dolora, Senior Vice President of American Airlines for Mexico, Caribbean and Latin America. He indicated that Dolora recently himself celebrated 40 years with the company and that it was Dolora who always believed in the Aruban product. Despite the various negative factors, such as the economic crisis and the terrorist attack of September 11, he continued to believe in Aruba and made the necessary adjustments to ensure that American could continue flying to Aruba.

It is the confidence of these and other important partners of Aruba, combined with the vision of our leaders that we succeeded in making Aruba the preferred tourism destination of the Caribbean.

Today, we are proud to acknowledge that American has 18 flights per week between Miami and Aruba and between New York and Aruba. The Minister concluded his remarks by saying that he was confident that the ties with American Airlines will continue for many years to come and that he believes that the partnership will grow and AA will continue to be one of our strongest strategic partners in the future development of the Aruban product.





## Rules apply for all Campers

ORANJESTAD -- Chief of Police, Mr. A.E. Richardson has issued a reminder to all campers heading off to our beaches during the Holy Week for the annual week of family and friends camping adventure. The Police chief reminds all that they must pay attention to all the conditions governing the camping permit that they received.

No one will be allowed to begin setting up camp before Sunday, April 17 from 12 noon.

This means that any objects placed on our beaches before this date and time will be removed by the police. The last day to camp is May 1st. After May 1st all objects not removed by campers will again be removed by the police and all cost for removal will be for the account of the owner of the objects.

The Police are appealing to all campers to make a special effort to keep our beaches clean during the camping and by all means, to leave the areas immaculately clean after the camping is over. Everyone should use the trash barrels and plastic bags for depositing their refuse.

As of March 8th until March 25th, the forms for the petition for a camping permit may be obtained at the Police Administration. The Office hours are: 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

The following rules are contingent to the permit:

1. It is strictly forbidden to do any sort of B.B.Q. cooking on the white sand beach areas, and at other non-white sand areas this may be done only from a B.B.Q. gas pit.

2. All tents or trailers used for camping must be in good condition. They may not be placed closer than 10 meters from the ocean line and 5 meters from the public road side.

If not, they will be removed by the police.

3. Under no circum-



stance will it be allowed to reserve locations for camping.

4. Each tent must be equipped with adequate first aid equipment for emergency situations.

5. It is prohibited to station tents or trailers at locations other than at those locations assigned by the police for each camper.

6. It is forbidden to place objects or posters or other material anywhere which are not in keeping with clean morals.

7. The camping must proceed according to the conditions under which the permit was issued.

8. It is prohibited to operate motor vehicles, motor bikes, bicycles, horses, or wheelbarrows on our beaches, and particularly not in public areas where people are camping.

9. It is forbidden to light fires on our beaches.

10. It is forbidden to sell food, drinks, mixed drinks, or any other type of items without a specific permit for same.

11. It is allowed to play music only from trailers or tents during the week up and until 10:00 p.m. On the weekend this may continue until midnight and in such manner as not to be a nuisance to other campers. The use of speakers and amplifiers is permitted only with the consent of other campers around.

12. It is prohibited to cut or trim trees without permission.

13. It is prohibited to operate boats or to anchor these in

a swimming zone, or to tie-off boats at the bouys designed for ships.

14. It is not allowed to use pallets or cartons on the beach, if these are found they will be removed by the police.

15. It is strictly forbidden to use the beach or coconut trees as a toilet.

16. It is prohibited to have horses or dogs on the beach.

17. It is prohibited to use the hut structures placed on the beach for camping. These must remain free for those desirous of just spending a day on the beach.

18. Under no circumstance is it allowed to dirty the beach. Broken bottles, glass splinters must be removed; and, by all means never throw anything into the ocean. This applies to all refuse.

19. It is not allowed to pass along your permit to another person.

20. Each camper must ensure that his permit is with him, intact, in a visible manner for police control.

21. Each holder of a camping permit is reminded that his permit is valid only for the area designated to him and only for the duration of the camping period. Before the camping period he may not reserve any location with markings, ropes, etc.

22. All instructions or indications by the police must be respected and adhered to for the good of all and in keeping with morality.

23. Each permit holder is responsible for whatever damage caused to others with respect to his tent or trailer or of other objects.

24. Again, it is strictly prohibited to use the small huts for camping; these must remain free for other day users.

25. Anyone who acts contrary to the conditions of the permit will be considered to be operating without a permit, in such case, his permit will be revoked.

## General Store & Croon Aruba sign service agreement for LG appliances



ORANJESTAD -- In June 2010, General Store became the official distributor of LG Appliances in Aruba. By acquiring the LG Product Line, General Store strongly believes that it is able to offer the community a good and innovative product at an affordable price. General Store is also renovating a store location at Pedro Gallegostraat 4 (Previous Dakota General Store) which should be ready sometime in the first Quarter 2011. The store will offer the full line of LG Product such as Fridges, Freezers, Washers, Dryers, Microwaves and Air Conditions. Besides being a top-quality product, the LG Line is extremely energy-efficient, which is a welcome bonus in this era of rising energy costs.

General Store has been working on improving the LG service-provision to our customers and will continue to do so. With this in mind and to further improve the quality of service provided to customers, General Store has recently signed an agreement with Croon Electrical for the installation and service of the LG brand. Croon will, from now on, be General Store's official

service and maintenance provider exclusively for the LG Brand. Croon brings a long history of quality services to the table, both in the Caribbean and Europe. It already maintains a staff of 50 qualified/trained service personnel. Due to Croon's excellent reputation in the field, General Store trusts, this partnership will prove to be an additional improvement and will benefit current, as well as future clients.

General Store will continue in its role as the formal distributor of the LG Brand in Aruba. If you already acquired a LG appliance from General Store, beginning immediately, you can contact General Store or Croon to service your appliance.

Contact name is Melva Ridderstap, Department Administration at tel.585-5205.

Email address is service@croonaruba.aw

You are hereby cordially invited to visit their Camacuri Store, where you can already view a nice stock of fine L G Products.

LG is the name in energy saving..... won't you start saving too?



# A Happy Big 4-0 for AA

Continued from page 1



First flights from decades past



Javier de Castro with the first AA uniform circa 1945

At their peak, in 2000, when they moved into the newly renovated airport, they employed

50 on island workers and boasted 28 flights weekly with daily service from Boston and New York and twice a day from Miami.

Rising fuel costs has prompted all airlines to cut back; American Airlines still is the most frequent flyer to Aruba with Friday through Monday direct service from New York and twice daily flights from Miami, for a total of 18 flights per week.

"It has been a great partnership and a wonderful 40 years working together," Javier de Castro told the gathering in the VIP room, "we at American look forward to another wonderful 40 years flying to Aruba."

by Rosalie Klein

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## "Win & Spin" campaign at Crystal & Seaport Casinos ends with selection of their Carnival 2011 Queens, Mrs. Nora Croes and Mrs. Anthonia Alberts



The Crystal & Seaport Casinos have crowned their Carnival Queens 2011! During an evening infused with animated Carnival ambiance, Mrs. Anthonia Alberts was chosen Seaport Casino Carnival Queen, while simultaneously Mrs. Nora Croes-Oduber was named Crystal Casino Carnival Queen

Anthonia, a loyal patron in high regard of Seaport Casino employees, expressed she was quite pleasantly surprised with her title. Nora also claims she received the surprise of her life when a casino host approached her, telling her she was chosen as their Crystal Carnival Queen.

Photo at left shows Mrs. Anthonia Alberts being crowned by Seaport Casino Host Jubert Williams, at right Queen Nora surrounded by Crystal Floor Manager Rosendo Koolman and other casino executives.

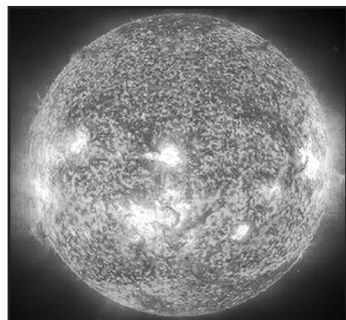
Crystal & Seaport Casino closed their "Spin & Win" campaign in a delightful manner in keeping with the season.





## Sci-Tech

# Space sleuths solve riddle of missing sunspots



PARIS (AFP) – Space scientists on Thursday said they could explain why spots disappeared off the face of the Sun for two years, a mystery that had challenged a mainstream theory about our star.

The years 2008 and 2009 were marked by a near-absence of sunspots, which reflected an unusually long period of low solar activity.

Astronomers were perplexed, for at that time the Sun was supposed to be building towards the climax of an 11-year cycle that has big implications for life on Earth.

Sunspots are highly magnetised globs of charged particles called plasma on the solar surface.

Plasma circulates on the Sun in a movement called the "Great Conveyor Belt" that bears similarities to Earth's ocean currents.

The conveyor belt travels along the Sun's surface, plunges inward around the poles and then re-emerges near the equator.

When sunspots start to decay, the surface currents sweep up their demagnetised remains and haul them into the bowels of the Sun where, at a depth of 300,000 kilometres (187,000 miles), their magnetic field is recharged.

The remagnetised plasma then rises back up to the surface -- and the sunspot is re-born.

The answer to the sunspots' absence comes in a computer model proposed by Dibyendu Nandi of the Indian Institute of Science Ed-

ucation and Research in Kolkata and colleagues.

It looks at what happened in 2008-9, factoring in the interior of the Sun, its magnetic "dynamo," the Great Conveyor Belt and the way sunspots are magnetically recharged and recover buoyancy.

"According to our model, the trouble with sunspots actually began in back in the late 1990s," co-author Andres Munoz-Jaramillo of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics said in a press release.

"At that time, the conveyor belt sped up."

Put simply, the Great Conveyor belt dragged decaying sunspots down to the heart of the Sun for a magnetic re-boost -- but the process this time was way too fast for the sunspots to be fully reanimated.

As a result, new sunspots failed to surface from the hidden production line.

## UK climatologists seek bubble blowers



LONDON (AFP) – Meteorologists have launched a new campaign to get people in England involved in measuring climate change by using a mirror, soap bubbles or simply looking up at the sky.

The Met Office national weather service is asking people to complete a series of simple activities to check the results of climatic computer models.

They include measuring wind speed by blowing bubbles into the air to monitoring the direction of clouds with the aid of a mirror.

Participants are being asked to spot plane vapour trails to measure air temperature and humidity, and to record how cold or hot they feel.

"They're all aspects that are actually quite difficult for us to analyse or measure with our standard monitoring network and so it's all about cap-

turing new data that can complement our existing observation and tell us a little more," Met Office climate scientist Mark McCarthy told AFP on Wednesday.

"Contrails (vapour trails), for example -- we want to look at how well weather and climate models are able to predict where contrails do or don't form and whether they do or don't spread out and form clouds."

When planes fly, the burning of the fuel creates water vapour which mixes with the very cold air at high altitudes and condenses. The air is so cold that ice crystals are formed, leaving behind condensation trails -- contrails.

The trails stop heat from

leaving Earth and contribute to global warming. But while computers can predict where they should form due to temperature and humidity, the only real way to check is to look at the sky.

Another activity under the OPAL Climate Survey includes asking people to write down if they are hot or cold to help scientists understand how sensitive individuals are to climate change.

The Met Office expects a strong response from the survey, one of several launched in recent years involving the public on environmental issues, and has already distributed 40,000 activity packs to schools and other organisations.

## China says it wants green growth within five years



BEIJING (AFP) – China, the world's biggest polluter, plans to "go green" in the next five years, emphasising energy efficiency and the battle on its choking pollution in its plans to revamp the economy, ex-

perts say.

The so-called 12th five-year plan -- already approved by Communist Party leaders -- is expected to be reviewed and rubber-stamped by delegates to the National People's Con-

gress, which opens its annual session Saturday in Beijing.

"We must not any longer sacrifice the environment for the sake of rapid growth and reckless roll-outs," Premier Wen Jiabao said Sunday, warning that doing so would result in unsustainable growth and the depletion of resources.

China's total carbon dioxide emissions, which it finally admitted last year are the largest in the world, increased by 32.5 percent between 2006 and 2009,

according to the US Energy Information Administration, a government agency.

Beijing has already launched an ambitious programme to develop clean energy and shut down factories that fail to meet emissions targets.

It also wants to reduce its energy consumption per unit of GDP, or carbon intensity, by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 based on 2005 levels -- essentially a vow of greater energy efficiency, but not an absolute cap on emissions.



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## 'Cyberwar' talk invades world's top high-tech fair

HANOVER, Germany (AFP) – In the wake of the Stuxnet virus, the topic of international "cyberwar" split IT experts at the world's top tech fair, some seeing the idea as fanciful, others warning it was already here.

"Cyberwar" has already left the pages of the science-fiction books and has become a reality," August-Wilhelm Scheer, president of BITKOM, Germany's high-tech lobby group, told AFP on the sidelines of the CeBIT exposition.

Natalya Kaspersky, president of the Russian IT security firm of the same name, said: "Of course the time of the cyberwar has come. Physical war is very expensive, it costs much less to launch attacks over the Internet."

The idea of "cyberwar" -- or countries attacking each other over the web -- has been around for decades but shot to prominence in 2007 when Internet sites were hit in Estonia, at the time embroiled in a diplomatic spat with Russia.

And the concept really hit the headlines last year with the Stuxnet worm, which damaged Iranian nuclear facilities. Media reports in the United States later said the virus was created with the collaboration of the US and Israel.

Many experts at the time concluded the code of the worm was so complex, it could only have been the

work of a nation state.

"Stuxnet is going to go down in history as the first cyberweapon of mass destruction," said Ralph Langner, a German cybersecurity specialist and one of the first scientists to analyse the crippling virus.

"It did not attack virtual targets but rather caused material damage to military objectives, in the same way a bomb attack might," he told AFP.

Others however dismissed the idea of virtual "war" as overblown.

Michael Hange, president of the German government's IT security agency (BSI) said: "Cyberwar" is a strong word that is nice for the media but I like to be more cautious."

"In cyberattacks, a country doesn't exactly leave its calling card. The classical model of war simply does not apply," added Hange.

This view was shared by international cyberdefence expert Katharina Ziolkowski, who wrote in a recent editorial in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily that cyberwar had "nothing to do with military conflict."

"One day maybe we could have things happening on the Internet that have such serious consequences in the real world that one could talk of armed conflict. But I think we will be safe from this for the next 100 years," she added.





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## US pulls 500 unauthorized prescription drugs



**The US Food and Drug Administration said it wants 500 unauthorized prescription drugs pulled from the market because of risks to the public.**

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The US Food and Drug Administration said it wants 500 unauthorized prescription drugs for cough, cold and allergy symptoms pulled from the market because of risks to the public.

"We don't know what's in them, whether they work properly or how they are made," FDA director of the Office of Compliance, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Deborah Autor told reporters.

The FDA published a list of 500 medications that are available only through a doctor's prescription, and said companies must "stop manufacturing them within 90 days and stop shipping the products within 180 days."

Autor said "all or almost all" of the drugs are made in the United States.

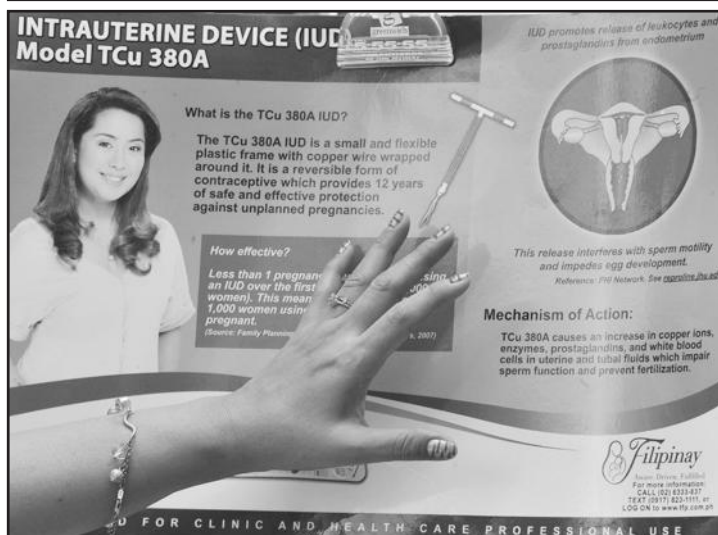
"We believe there are doctors out there who continue to prescribe these drugs," said Autor, noting that some of the drugs are listed in physicians' desk reference books and advertised in medical journals.

Some of the more commonly known drug names include Cardex, Lodrane 24D, and Organidin, she said. Another, called Pedia-Hist, is labeled for children as young as one year old but has not been cleared by the FDA.

Charlie Lee, a doctor who participated in the FDA conference call with reporters, said the drugs are mainly cough and cold combination formulas and that "sedation, drowsiness, irritability" are among the complications reported.

However, the FDA noted that such reports were "limited" and said it was unclear how many of the drugs were actually on the market.

It was also unknown how many people could be taking them because most people treat such symptoms with drugstore remedies.



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**MANILA, The Philippines -- A Philippine health worker holds a lecture for pregnant women on responsible family planning including the natural family planning method at a health centre in Navotas City, suburban Manila. The Philippine parliament has blocked government efforts to give free condoms to poor people amid a raging debate over a proposed law to allot annual funding for family planning. A reproductive health bill being debated in parliament, would oblige the government to fund mass contraception programs. (AFP PHOTO)**

## Health & Living

### World first artificial bronchus graft in France

PARIS, France (AFP) – An artificial bronchus was successfully grafted onto a 78-year-old patient with lung cancer, a world first that avoided the complete removal of the lung, medical authorities announced.

The surgical innovation, carried out on October 28 2009 by a team at Paris's Avicenne Hospital, meant that "the cancerous growth could be removed with greater safety margins" and also "avoidance of the foreseen complete removal of the lung carrying very high risk of post-operative death," the group Public Assistance - Paris Hospitals said in a statement.

The patient "is very well" following the graft of the artificial airway, thoracic and vascular surgeon Emmanuel Martinod, who carried out the surgery, told AFP.

"Our procedure followed 10



**Photo shows surgeons performing an operation at a hospital in Paris.**

years of research," he said, adding however that "we must remain very prudent."

The artificial bronchus was made up of biological material strengthened by a stent. The use of aortic tissue, preserved by cold and available from a

tissue bank, had the advantage of not needing anti-rejection medicaments, which are counter-indicated in treatment of cancers.

Details of this medical first are published in the review *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.

### HIV protesters tell India to defy EU drug demands

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – Thousands of HIV-positive protesters called on the Indian government to reject EU trade demands they said would make lifesaving drugs unaffordable to millions of people with the virus.

More than 2,000 demonstrators from India and other Asian countries marched through downtown New Delhi carrying banners reading "Don't trade away our lives" and staged a lie-in.

The European Union (EU) is seeking provisions in a proposed trade deal that would push prices of generic drugs made in India beyond the reach of people with the HIV virus in developing countries, said the protesters.

Affordable medicines produced in India have played a major role in scaling up HIV/AIDS treatment to more than five million people in developing countries, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said.

The protest was staged to coincide with "sensitive" negotiations in Brussels between India and the 27-member EU on the market-opening pact, which has been under discussion since 2007, MSF said.

### Air pollution could reduce life by two years, says EU



**Lethal air pollution booms in emerging nations- in this photo; India Air Pollution**

PARIS, France (AFP) – Curbing air pollution in major European cities could save 19,000 lives per year, add almost two years to local life expectancy and save 31.5 billion euros (43.4 billion dollars) in health costs and work absenteeism, an EU-funded study said.

The nearly three-year probe, called Aphekom, looked at 25 cities in 12 European Union (EU) countries, encompassing nearly 39 million inhabitants.

Only Stockholm was below the threshold of fine particulate pollution of 10 micrograms per cubic metre recommended by the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO), it found.

At the other end of the scale, Bucharest notched up 38.2 micrograms, Budapest

33.7 micrograms and Barcelona 27 micrograms per cubic metre.

Among other cities, pollution in Rome was 21.4 micrograms per cubic metre, while in Paris and London it was 16.4 and 13.1 micrograms per cubic metre respectively.

Fine particulates are tiny airborne grains that can be drawn deep into the lungs, with the potential to cause respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

The pollution comes from traffic exhausts, which means that it is particularly pronounced near major roads.

In a sub-set of 10 cities studied by Aphekom, scientists estimated that between 15 and 30 percent of cases of childhood asthma could be attributed to living close to busy roads.



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# 'till you drop!





# Paseo Herencia hosts a special night to share the spirit of Carnaval



As the final grand parades of Carnaval 57 approach, Paseo Herencia Mall hosted a special preview for island visitors of the music and grandiose costumes which are the heart and soul of this

annual tradition on Aruba.

The amphitheater at the mall's center was packed to capacity on Wednesday evening, and the audience was quickly drawn into the spirit and beat that has is-



Aruba All Star team, winners of Moca 2011 Kids World Series of Baseball with Donny and Candy Rasmijn

landers dancing in the streets for months on end. "They rhythm is gonna get you!" prophetically declared the MC, and those filling the bleachers were soon swaying and dancing along with the stunningly costumed dancers as they "Jumped with their Towel" and "Did the Wiper."

Paseo Herencia also provided the additional treat of meeting Aruba's triumphant Little League All Star Team which had just returned the night before with the Carlos Gomez Cup and the title of Kids World Series Baseball Moca 2011 Champions from Santo Domingo. The group of 11 to 13 year-olds was praised by Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn, who distributed gifts for them from the various Paseo Herencia shops and management for their singular accomplishment. "We know we are just a tiny little island, but we have a big heart," he told the audience; Delegation Head Karel Williams explained they had



just defeated "really big teams," from the U.S., Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela and Puerto Rico while competing in this major event for the very first time.

This evening providing in-

sight and enjoyment of the Aruban people and culture was punctuated with by the music of Brass Band OBS and all ages found it a fun and exciting revelation!

by Rosalie Klein

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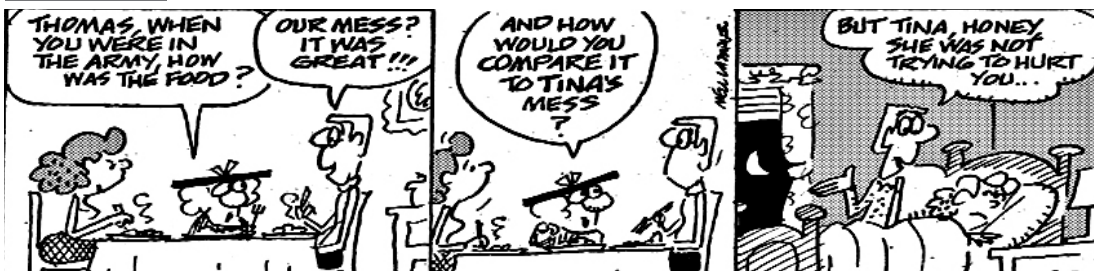
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## PICKLES



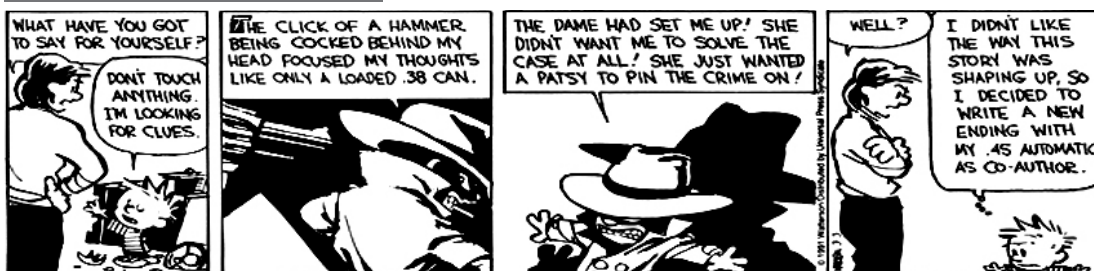
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## MOMMA



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## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

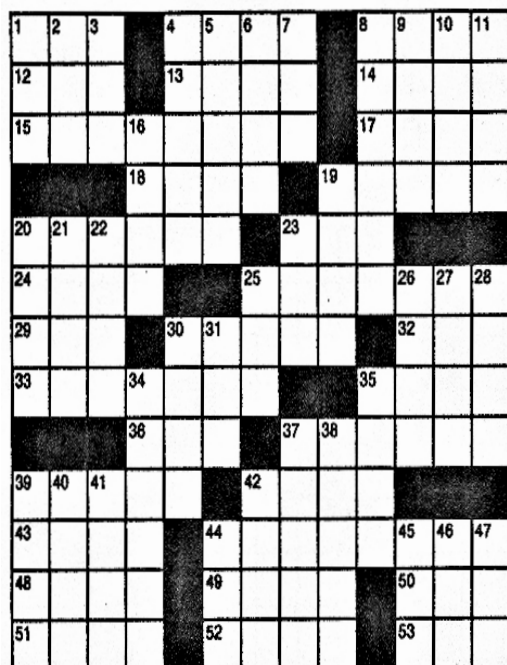
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## ACROSS

1. Paid player  
4. Pious platitudes  
8. Eatery

## DOWN

12. Corn unit  
13. Helm position  
14. Absent  
15. Amusing account



17. Undercover spy  
18. Scarce as \_\_\_ teeth  
19. Markets  
20. Expand  
23. Soap unit  
24. At the summit of  
25. Equilibrium  
29. Mr. Auerbach  
30. Spring  
32. Conger, e.g.  
33. May's gem  
35. Hand part  
36. Total  
37. Oysters' output  
39. Couple of times  
42. Type of eagle  
43. Endanger  
44. Comely  
48. Actor Eric \_\_\_  
49. Helper  
50. Explosive sound  
51. Swimming contest  
52. Sirius, e.g.  
53. Pedal digit

## DOWN

1. Soup or jacket  
2. Kurosawa film  
3. Galena, e.g.  
4. West Pointer  
5. "Home \_\_\_"  
6. Seines

7. Crossed letter  
8. Tourist's need  
9. Military truant: abbr.  
10. Be overthrown  
11. Ocular orbs  
16. Roughen  
19. Brine feature  
20. "Truth or \_\_\_"  
21. News bit  
22. Miner's vein  
23. Forbid  
25. Type of vase  
26. Nigh  
27. Alcatraz room  
28. Shade givers  
30. Diminish  
31. Like antiques  
34. Lend's implement  
35. Protectors  
37. Ling-Ling, e.g.  
38. Church official  
39. Decorate  
40. Expansive  
41. Wight or Man  
42. Entice  
44. Contains  
45. Select  
46. Bossy's comment  
47. Ram's mate

Courtesy of



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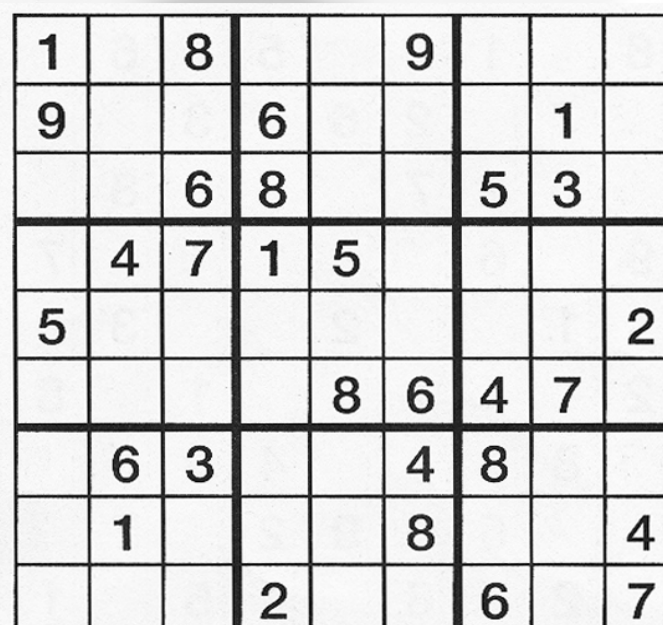
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## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

7	5	9	3	1	2	4	6	8
4	6	8	9	7	5	1	2	3
1	2	8	4	6	9	3	5	7
9	7	4	9	8	6	1	2	3
2	9	1	7	3	4	6	8	5
3	8	6	2	5	1	7	4	9
6	3	9	1	2	8	9	7	4
8	1	7	9	4	9	2	3	6
9	4	2	6	7	3	8	5	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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## Finance



**Dhaka, BANGLADESH** : Microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus (C) emerges from the high court building to contest the decision to remove him from his post in Grameen Bank, in Dhaka. Bangladesh's Nobel-winning microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus began a legal battle to overturn an attempt by the government to sack him from the bank he founded (AFP PHOTO)



**CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP)** – In the latest defect recall to hit Japanese automakers, Honda said it will recall nearly 37,000 Civic Hybrids in the United States. Honda said a faulty converter in the hybrid control system could lead to the engine stalling and malfunction of the headlights. No injuries or accidents have been reported in relation to the problem, which affects 2006 and 2007 models. It comes two weeks after Honda said it was recalling nearly 700,000 vehicles worldwide due to defective parts that could stall the engine and cause problems restarting in certain models.

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## World food prices hit record highs amid oil jitters

ROME, Italy (AFP) – World food prices have hit record highs and oil price spikes could push them even higher, the UN food agency warned, as increasing violence in Libya sent jitters through commodity markets.

The Food Price Index, which monitors average monthly price changes for a variety of key staples, rose to 236 points in February from 231 points in January, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said.

It was the highest level since FAO began monitoring prices in 1990.

"Unexpected oil price spikes could further exacerbate an already precarious situation in food markets," David Hallam, director of the Rome-based FAO's trade and market division, was quoted as saying in a statement.

"This adds even more uncertainty concerning the price outlook just as plantings for crops in some of the major growing regions are about to start."

FAO economists warned



that food prices were likely to remain high until the outlook for this year's harvests is known by around April.

Crude prices dipped on Thursday after pushing higher in nervous trading amid fighting in oil-rich Libya between Moamer Kadhafi loyalists and rebel forces.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in April fell 63 cents to \$115.72 per barrel. New York's light sweet crude for April, known as West Texas Intermediate (WTI), shed 61 cents to \$101.61.

Analysts at Germany's Commerzbank warned: "There is still a risk of the unrest spreading to other oil producing countries of the region."

The International Energy

Agency said oil exports from Libya had been cut by between 850,000 and one million barrels per day, out of a total of 1.6 million barrels sent mostly to European buyers before the uprising.

Loyalist attacks on the strategic Libyan oil port of Brega, home to major petroleum operations, added to concern, while popular unrest also affects the Arabian Peninsula with protests in Bahrain, Oman and Yemen.

Higher oil prices affect all aspects of the food production chain, from fertiliser to transport.

The FAO has warned that rising food prices are in turn driving unrest around the world.

## No evidence yet of spying at Renault: French police

PARIS, France (AFP) – Police probing alleged industrial espionage at French car giant Renault said they had drawn a blank, as a case Paris once branded evidence of "economic warfare" appeared set to fizzle out.

Intelligence officers had been "astonished" by the weakness of the evidence Renault presented against three of its executives sacked over claims they had leaked company secrets, a source close to the investigation told AFP.

Police have found no trace of Swiss bank accounts the accused men were alleged to have held, he added, suggesting that Renault's internal inquiry could have been fed false account numbers by squabbling managers.

A source close to the Liechtenstein police's probe into the case said that the bank accounts said to be held there by the trio did not exist either.

"Apparently, the informa-

tion was wrong. The investigation led to no results," said the Liechtenstein official.

The head of France's DCRI police intelligence service, Bernard Squarcini, criticised the leaks, insisting that the industrial espionage inquiry was ongoing and that the results would only be given to prosecutors.

In January, Renault sacked three senior managers over alleged industrial espionage and launched legal action against them. The trio have denied the allegations and have hit back with lawsuits for defamation.

The accused -- Bertrand Rochette, Matthieu Tenenbaum and Michel Balthazard - expressed relief at the apparent collapse in the case against of them, but demanded Renault pay them damages for slander and false dismissal.

Renault had suggested the executives had sold pricing data on the firm's future electric car models -- which are

key to the French giant's strategy, based on an enormous investment in as yet unproven technology.

When the scandal erupted, the French government sounded an alarm, warning of "economic warfare", amid press reports accusing China of paying off European executives for trade and technology secrets. China denied any involvement.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

LOST	GRAB	PLUG
ORLE	HAVER	RANI
NEAR	ADORE	OILS
SPINNING	JENNY	
YOGI	ORT	
UNCAGE	SPINOZA	
PARKS	TURNS	OVA
OMET	PARES	SNAG
NEE	ALLAY	THESE
SPINACH	GHOSTS	
ROT	ALAR	
SPIN	THEBOTTLE	
JARS	EARLS	CALM
RIE	DIMES	UGLI
JAGS	GARY	TSAR



## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with



town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only

construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management de-



the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260

a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an



immediate return on their investment.

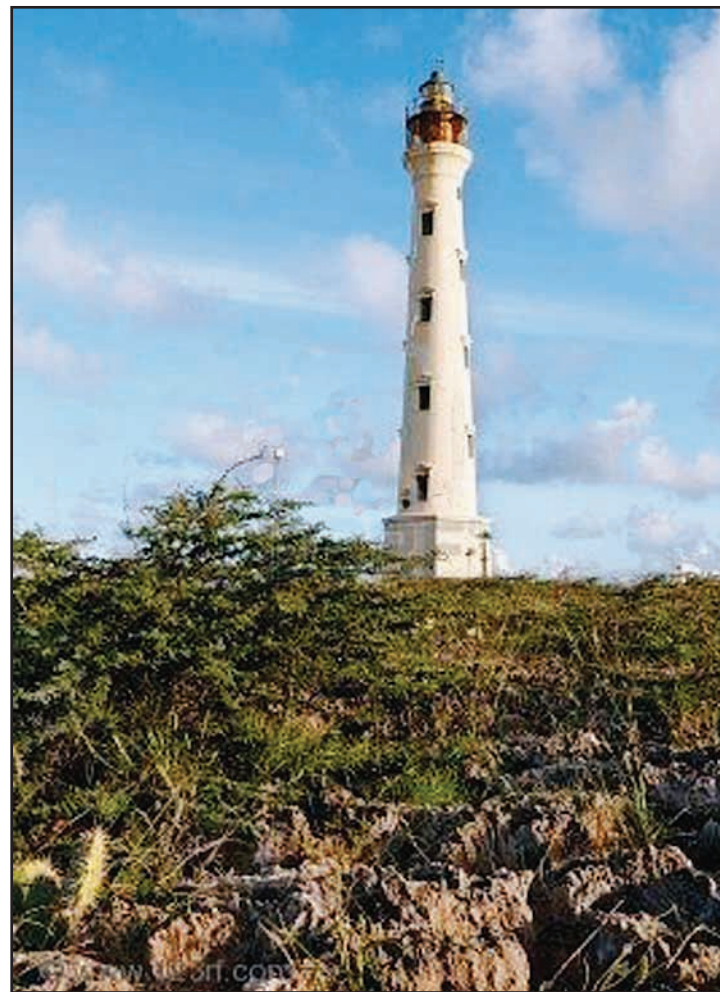
The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality

partment.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

## A must see while on Aruba!

### California Lighthouse



California Lighthouse is found on the north side of the island. There are heaps of things to do should you take a day trip to the lighthouse, unfortunately the interior of the structure is closed so a tour is not among the activities. Tourists flock to California Lighthouse to be swept away by the stunning views available from the hill.

pography than what you've seen around your hotel and provides you with a great place to watch the Caribbean sunset.

#### HISTORY

California Lighthouse, otherwise known as "Hudishibana, was built in 1914, as a warning system to ships nearing the island of Aruba. It



Stunning sunset

The site offers spectacular sunsets as the final shades of sunshine give way to a brilliant azure canopy.

Dune surfing is available on nearby sand dunes for the adventurous, provided you take appropriate clothing such as jeans or long pants. Divers frequent the wreck site off the shore.

Giant boulders and scrubby vegetation surround the lighthouse, offering a different to-

was named after an American steamship by the name of the Californian, which wrecked off the shore in the late 1800's. The lighthouse is still in operation today.

The lighthouse is easily accessible. Numerous tours offer packages including California Lighthouse as a stop. If you're more of an independent traveler, you'll find it is easy to reach the lighthouse by bus.





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**Santa Cruz de Tenerife, SPAIN :** Queen of the carnival of Santa Cruz de Tenerife as she shows off her outfit on the Spanish Canary island of Tenerife yesterday.

AFP PHOTO

## Obama honors stars with medals



**US President Barack Obama awards the 2010 National Medal of Arts to American musician James Taylor during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, DC.**

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US President Barack Obama lauded the power of the arts to ease the pain of hard times, as he honored stars including ac-

tress Meryl Streep, songwriter James Taylor and novelist Philip Roth.

"There are people here whose books or poetry or

works of history shaped me," Obama said at a White House ceremony before presenting the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal.

"The fact is that works of art, literature, works of history, they speak to our condition and they affirm our desire for something more and something better," Obama said.

"The arts and the humanities help us through the hard times and they remind us of what make the good times worthwhile. After all, the goal doesn't always have to be so lofty. "Sometimes, we just need a break, a chance to laugh or escape from the moment."

Among National Medal of Arts medal wins were pianist Van Cliburn, jazz and pop musician Quincy Jones, and Taylor whose distinctive hits include "Carolina in My Mind" and "Fire and Rain."

The reclusive Harper Lee, author of the classic novel of race and inequality "To Kill a Mockingbird," and Oscar-winning Streep, who will star as former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher in an upcoming movie, did not attend the ceremony.

Recipients of the National Humanities Medal included historian Bernard Bailyn and novelists Joyce Carol Oates and Philip Roth, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning American Pastoral.

## Foreigners flock to India's world yoga capital



Alcohol and smoking are banned in cafes and restaurants throughout the town, as is meat, so as not to disturb the participants' "chakras" -- the seven major centres of spiritual energy in the body according to yoga philosophy.

"It's so inspiring to come here where yoga has its roots,"

said Daniela Lobeira, a 41-year-old from Mexico who works in animal protection.

The festival, which began this week, is now in its 12th year with tourists paying \$600 to attend.

The Beatles visited Rishikesh in 1968 to learn about transcendental meditation from the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, helping to popularise ideas about Indian spirituality.

"In Western countries, we try to get a good education, to make a lot of money, we don't find peace, we get sick," said Kalsa, who runs two yoga centres in New York and Los Angeles.

"But today priorities have changed: we now want to feel better, be closer to ourself. That's what yoga is."

RISHIKESH, India (AFP) – The Himalayan town of Rishikesh in northern India is welcoming hundreds of foreign tourists for its annual yoga festival, with visitors keen to learn the ancient art by the sacred River Ganges.

"Yoga doesn't flow in our veins like it does in Indians so I came here to go back to basics," said French yoga teacher Juliette Allard, 38, who lives in Barcelona and has been coming to the festival for the last three years.

"Rishikesh is yoga paradise," she told AFP.

Visitors from 36 countries have brought their yoga mats to learn about breathing, posture, chanting and nutrition from experts in all types of yoga in classes that start at 4:00 am and continue until sunset.



**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - - A member of Porto da Pedra samba school works on a float that will take part in the carnival parade at the sambodrome on the week-end, at Samba City, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (AFP PHOTO)**

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# Captain marvel Afridi saves Pakistan



**Shahid Afridi (L) of Pakistan receives the 'Man of the Match' award after his figures of 5-23 during the Canada v Pakistan 2011 ICC World Cup Group A match**

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Captain Shahid Afridi saved Pakistan from following England into the World Cup dunces corner with a nerveless display of leg-spin to shatter Canada's hopes of a famous triumph on Thursday.

Just a day after Ireland had clinched a record-breaking win over England, Canada were dreaming of a similar sensational upset when they bowled out the 1992 champions for a paltry 184 in Colombo.

But Canada, who had already suffered a 210-run loss to Sri Lanka and a 175-run defeat to Zimbabwe, were undone by Afridi's one-man show.

The 31-year-old skipper claimed 5-23 to help dismiss Canada for 138 and seal a 46-run victory which put Pakistan back on top of Group A and with one foot in the quarter-finals with a third win in three matches.

Canada had been well placed at 104-3 before Afridi sent back Rizwan Cheema, Jimmy Hansra, Harvir Baidwan and Tyson Gordon in rapid succession.

The Pakistan captain took

his tournament tally to 14 wickets, becoming the first player to claim three successive four-wicket hauls in World Cup history.

For good measure, he then ran out Balaji Rao to leave Canada on 134-9 before Wahab Riaz finished things off by destroying Henry Osinde's stumps.

Umar Akmal had top-scored for Pakistan with 48.

Afridi said his team's woe-filled batting performance was a wake-up call.

"I think sometimes we need some partnerships and that's what we were missing. Partnerships are very important," said the captain.

"We're not going to repeat this batting performance. But I think the bowlers are doing very well and we are very confident."

Canada captain Ashish Bagai admitted that his team are being outclassed after Thursday's 138 followed earlier totals of 122 and 123 in the tournament.

"Fighting is one thing but getting over the line is taking it to another level. We had a good chance to show everybody what we've put in over

the last few years and we fell short," he said.

Earlier, South Africa went to the top of Group B with two wins in two matches after a 231-run mauling of the Netherlands in Mohali, the fourth biggest win in World Cup history.

The Proteas piled up 351-5 with AB de Villiers and opener Hashim Amla both hitting centuries and putting on 221 for the third wicket.

De Villiers made 134 off 98 balls with 13 fours and four sixes for a second successive century at this World Cup while Amla hit 113 off 130 balls with eight fours.

JP Duminy contributed a 15-ball 40 before the Dutch were dismissed for just 120 to leave them rooted to the bottom of the table with three defeats in three outings.

South Africa also enjoyed a comfortable seven-wicket win in their opening game, but captain Graeme Smith said his side will not get carried away.

"We've got two big games coming our way, England (on Sunday) and then India, so obviously it's good to gain some confidence going into the big games," Smith said.

Ireland's three-wicket victory in Bangalore on Wednesday predictably had the England's demanding media sharpening their knives.

"England were left looking like a pub side," said the tabloid Sun newspaper.

Ireland won with five balls to spare as they finished on 329 for seven after England had been cruising when they reduced their opponents to 111 for five.

But Kevin O'Brien's brutal hitting, which brought him the fastest ever World Cup century off just 50 balls, turned the match on its head.

Ireland captain William Porterfield challenged the International Cricket Council's decision to cut the number of teams at the next World Cup from 14 to 10, which reduces the chances for the smaller nations to take part.

"The ICC have made a decision and it's out of our hands," said Porterfield.

"It's pretty disappointing cutting the teams to 10. I personally think there needs to be some kind of qualification."

On Friday, New Zealand and Zimbabwe meet in Group A in Ahmedabad while Bangladesh welcome West Indies to Dhaka for the first time in nine years in Group B.



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## Pele backs Platini for FIFA presidency



SINGAPORE (AFP) - Brazilian football legend Pele on Thursday said he had recommended UEFA supremo Michel Platini as a candidate to run against Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency in June.

Speaking to reporters in Singapore, Pele said he had put forward Platini's name when he and former Germany captain Franz Beckenbauer were approached to run for FIFA's top job.

"Myself and Beckenbauer, we were approached to be candidates, then I said no, I am out of that. I want to rest," he said, without specifying who had made the suggestion to him.

"But everybody knows, Platini... it is important for him to be, you know, president of FIFA," added Pele, who was in Singapore to help officially kick off the 2011 Asia tour of the newly-revived New York Cosmos.

"Maybe as a (former) player, the player who has a chance, maybe Platini because he is already president of UEFA."

Platini won the 1984 European Championship with France and the European Cup with Italian club Juventus the following year.

However, Pele was non-committal about Platini's chances against Blatter for football's top job.

"I think he's not bad, who

knows?" he stated.

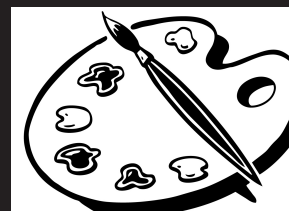
Elections for the next four-year FIFA presidency will be held on June 1, and incumbent Blatter has already indicated he wants to keep the position.

Pele is the honorary president of the New York Cosmos, his club for three seasons in the 1970s, while Eric Cantona, the former Manchester United talisman, is their director of soccer operations.

The original New York Cosmos played from 1971 to 1985 when they were in the vanguard of the drive to popularise football in the United States.

But following the collapse of the North American Soccer League, the Cosmos' fortunes rapidly faded and they went out of business in 1985.

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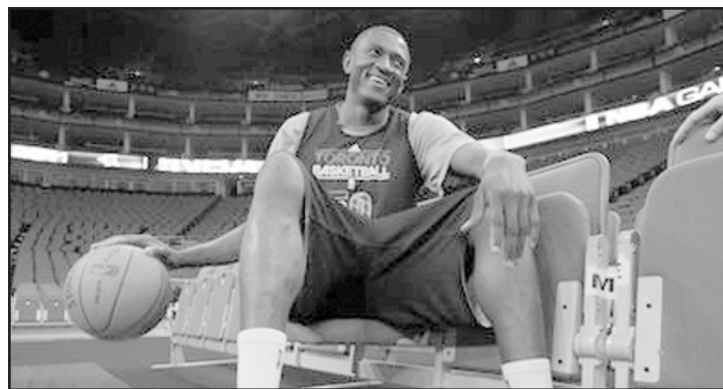
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## NBA prepares to make British bow



**Toronto Raptors Solomon Alabi bounces a ball at the O2 Arena in London**

LONDON (AFP) - The NBA will make its debut in Britain here Friday when the New Jersey Nets and Toronto Raptors face off for the first ever regular season matches held in Europe.

British basketball officials hope the two matches at London's O2 Arena on Friday and Saturday will help persuade world basketball chiefs to grant Britain a place in next year's Olympic tournament.

NBA commissioner David Stern has said the games are important in helping promote basketball beyond the United States ahead of the Olympics.

"I believe that that is a very important lead in to the 2012 Olympics, because in Beijing, basketball was the hottest ticket," NBA commissioner David Stern said at the announcement of this week-end's matches.

"We want as much as possible to demonstrate the power and fun of this sport of ours."

Neither the Nets nor the Raptors are among the NBA's strongest sides, with losing records this season which rule them out of the playoffs.

However the two sides contain several players who are likely to feature in London at next year's Olympic tournament, including American Brook Lopez, Italy's Andrea Bargnani and Spain's

Jose Calderon.

"I'm very excited about this trip," Toronto guard Calderon said.

"These are two important games for us, and games have never been played in Europe before, so it will be nice to be close to home," added Calderon, part of the Spanish team that took silver in Beijing.

"It would be great for me to be back here in the finals (next year). The 2008 Olympics was the best experience. We've got a good team and it would be great to get back but we've got to qualify first."

Basketball's world governing body FIBA has asked Britain to demonstrate that in addition to a competitive national team, long-term plans to develop the sport in the country have been put in place.

## Deadline extension possible: reports

WASHINGTON (AFP) - With a possible work stoppage looming, the NFL and its players' union were reportedly discussing extending the current contract on Thursday to allow talks on a new deal to go on.

ESPN.com and NFL.com were among the US media outlets reporting that an extension of the deadline -- the

expiration of the current collective bargaining agreement at one minute to midnight -- was being considered.

In an article posted on NFL.com, an unnamed source told the NFL Network that the league offered the extension, but the union remained unconvinced the league was committed to real progress.

If the extension isn't agreed by both parties, the collective bargaining agreement will expire. The owners could then lock out players.

Alternatively, the NFL Players Association could opt to decertify prior to the deadline, a move that would mean the union no longer represents the players and would trigger a court battle involving US anti-trust law.

## Injured Durant skips Thunder training

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (AFP) - NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant missed Oklahoma City's practice on Thursday with a sprained left ankle and will likely miss Friday's game at Atlanta.

"It's one of those injuries you can't avoid. I feel good today, better than I thought," Durant said. "We're just taking it day by day and see what happens tomorrow."

Durant said he hadn't experienced the same level of swelling that he had when he sprained the same ankle in November, an injury that cost him two games.

Although he remained hopeful he wouldn't miss a contest this time around, Thunder coach Scott Brooks said it was doubtful Durant would play on Friday.

"We'll see how he feels tomorrow but I would say doubtful," Brooks said. "With Kevin, he has the toughness, he loves to play, so when he's ready, he's going to step on the court and play at the level that we all are accustomed to seeing."

Durant leads the league with an average of 28.4 points per game.



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## Nicklaus says Tiger will still set major mark



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AFP) – Tiger Woods has not won a title in nearly 16 months but golf legend Jack Nicklaus said Wednesday that he still believes Woods will break his all-time mark of 18 major crowns.

"I still think he will break my record," Nicklaus said before the PGA Honda Classic pro-am event.

Woods has not won since a sex scandal erupted around him in November of 2009 with the 14-time major champion admitting to affairs with multiple mistresses, costing him major financial sponsors and his marriage to Elin Nordegren.

"He got maybe off the track, but I think he's really a

principled kid," Nicklaus said. "Are we all perfect? No."

Woods struggled through a winless 2010 season and is working on changes to his swing with coach Sean Foley that have yet to pay off with a return to the form Woods once dominated golf with like no other player since Nicklaus.

"I'm surprised that he has not bounced back by now," Nicklaus said. "I think he's got a great work ethic. He's so determined to do what he wants to do. I'm very surprised that he has not popped back."

But Nicklaus, who has not spoken with Woods since last June, added that how Woods fares in this year's majors likely will play a pivotal role in deciding whether Woods can match him or not.

"You probably can ask me that same question at the end of this year and we will see what the answer is," Nicklaus said.

"It will probably define a lot of what will be the answer."

Woods will try to end a 34-month major title drought, matching the longest of his career, at next month's Mas-

ters on an Augusta National Golf Club course where he has won four green jackets.

This year also features the US Open in June at Congressional Golf Club, where Woods hosted a PGA event that he won in 2009, the British Open in July at Royal St. George's in England and the PGA Championship in August at Atlanta Athletic Club.

Woods, 35, last won a major title at the 2008 US Open, limping through a playoff victory over Rocco Mediate before knee surgery ended his season.

Nicklaus won two majors at age 35 and four more after turning 36. If Woods cannot win another major this year, he will drop back to having won the same number of majors at the same age as Nicklaus, a pace he has exceeded since his "Tiger Slam" of four major titles in a row in 2000-2001.

"He's not going to go anywhere," Nicklaus said. "How does he win 14 majors? He doesn't get there by playing poorly. He has won a lot of tournaments hitting it all over the world, but he still figured out a way to get the ball in the hole to win that golf tournament. He'll do it again."

## 2010 World Cup was huge financial success: FIFA



ZURICH (AFP) - FIFA President Sepp Blatter on Thursday hailed Africa's first World Cup in 2010 as a financial success, after it pushed the governing body's four-year revenues above four billion dollars for the first time.

Blatter claimed it vindicated the choice of South Africa despite fears that the decision to bring football's biggest tournament to the continent was a financial risk.

"I am the happiest man to announce that the World Cup in South Africa was a huge, huge financial success for everybody, for Africa for South Africa, for FIFA," he

told journalists after an executive committee meeting.

"For the first time in FIFA's four-year accounts we are over four billion dollars."

FIFA, a non-profit association under Swiss law, earned 4.189 billion dollars in its 2007 - 2010 financial period, with a surplus of 631 million dollars, deputy secretary general and finance chief Markus Kattner said.

Eighty-seven percent of total revenues - 3.655 billion dollars - over the period were related to the 2010 World Cup.

Traditionally the bulk of earnings are down to deals on broadcasting rights worldwide and marketing or sponsorship contracts.

"The sale of television and marketing rights was more successful than expected," Kattner underlined.

Last year alone revenues reached 1.29 billion dollars with a surplus of 202 million.

Although the surplus is redistributed among footballing nations, over the past four years FIFA has nearly doubled its cash reserves to 1.28 billion dollars.

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